

News Advisory



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Park Closes August 11 As Work Begins

Donner Memorial State Park Undergoing Major Renovation

TRUCKEE, CA – California State Parks is undertaking a major renovation of the water system at Donner Memorial State Park just west of Truckee, including replacement of aging restroom facilities.

The work will require that the park's campgrounds and day use areas close on Aug. 11 until next year. The campgrounds have been off the reservation system all year in anticipation of the work.

The Emigrant Trail Museum will be open to the public during the construction period. The museum is open year-round.

The exact length of the project will vary depending on the weather. Officials hope to complete the work in time to reopen the park next spring. If snows delay the work, however, the reopening may be delayed.

Projects will include construction of six new buildings and replacement of the park's water system. Work will include archeological investigation to determine the impact of new lines on existing prehistoric sites. The \$2 million project is being paid for through voter-approved bond funds earmarked for such park projects.

Renovations include:

- Replacing the old wood-framed Creek Campground combination building with a new concrete block and wood-framed combination building that will house five showers and six toilet rooms.

- Replacing the old masonry and wood-framed Ridge Campground combination buildings with two new buildings that will contain four water closet rooms and four new shower rooms.
- Replacing the old masonry and food-framed Split Rock Campground buildings with two new combination buildings containing four water closet rooms and four shower rooms.
- Constructing a new comfort station adjacent to the access road and across from the picnic area at China Cove to replace existing portable toilets. The concrete block and wood framed building will house four water closet rooms.

All the buildings will house one toilet and one shower room that fully complies with the American With Disabilities Act. Showers in combination buildings will be coin-operated.

Donner Memorial State Park commemorates the pioneers who immigrated to California from the East in the mid-1800s. Included in the museum are displays and information about one of the earliest pioneer wagon trains, the Donner Party, forced by circumstances to camp at the east end of Donner Lake in the winter of 1846-47, resulting in human suffering and loss of life.

The park includes more than 2,000 acres, including two recent acquisitions that span portions of Scallenberger Ridge to the south of Donner Lake.

The park is 100 miles east of Sacramento via Interstate 80, and is within the town of Truckee, just west of downtown on the south side of the freeway. The park phone number is (530) 582-7892 or (530) 525-7232.

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